Waiving of roaming charges

1224. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the residents of Greater Noida, Gurgaon and Noida areas are paying huge amount of the roaming charges on the BSNL Mobile (Cell One);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to waive off roaming charges in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per Cellular Mobile Telephone Service/Unified Access Services (CMTS/UAS) License provisions, Delhi Service Area is defined as "Local Areas served by Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon Telephone Exchanges". Therefore, Greater Noida, Gurgaon and Noida areas are part of Delhi service area. BSNL is not licensed to operate Cell One mobile services in Delhi service area. Hence, the applicable roaming charges is to be paid by BSNL Mobile (Cell One) subscribers for using mobile services in these areas in roaming mode.

(c) Recently, on 24th January 2007 *vide* Telecommunication Tariff (forty fourth amendment) Order, 2007, (1 of 2007), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has reduced the ceiling tariff for mobile roaming. There is no proposal to waive off roaming charges in these areas.

Revision of NFAP

1225. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) is revised every two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that draft NFAP has been prepared in 2005 and that all the stakeholders did not agree to this draft, document; and

(c) if so, the reasons for Government to come out with draft NFAP-2007 before the spectrum policy and ITU-R frequency allocation recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) is normally to be revised after about 2 years.

(b) and (c) In the draft of revised NFAP prepared in the year 2005, there was no general consensus among the stakeholders regarding certain complex issues relating to spectrum allocation for 3G mobile services. Hence, an effort was made to release the revised NFAP, without these issues. However, in the meeting held in July, 2007, some of the stakeholders requested that the revised NFAP may be finalized after the new international frequency allocations etc. decided by the World Radiocommunication Conference-2007 (WRC-2007) of International

Telecommunication Union (ITU), are available and after the finalization of the national spectrum policy.

Committee on Information, Communication and Entertainment

1226. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any Committee on Information, Communication and Entertainment to help players in these sectors grow to their full potential;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A Committee on Information, Communication and Entertainment (ICE) was set up, *inter-alia,* to identify new opportunities in the areas of Information, Communication and Entertainment where the State needs to play a pro-active role.

(b) The composition of the Committee is as under:

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister - Chairperson

Member Secretary, Planning Commission

Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Secretary, Department of Telecommunications

Secretary, Department of Information Technology

Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs

Secretary, Department of Commerce

Media Advisor to the Prime Minister.

(c) and (d) The Committee has prepared a draft report on the subject.

Facilities for village postmen

†1227. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that village postmen are provided the facilities of salary, allowance, LTC and pension;

(b) if not, the reasons for denial of these common facilities despite serving in remote areas in such hard conditions;

(c) by when the facilities like salary, allowance and pension etc. would be allowed to them like other postal employees;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.